



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,424	08/22/2003	Wieslaw Maciejczyk	BSG (A) P16AUS	9164
20210	7590	06/28/2006	EXAMINER	
DAVIS & BUJOLD, P.L.L.C. 112 PLEASANT STREET CONCORD, NH 03301				BARFIELD, ANTHONY DERRELL
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3636		

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/646,424	MACIEJCZYK, WIESLAW
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Anthony D. Barfield	3636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-8,16,18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kain. Kain shows a connecting system (16) comprising a child car seat (10) in a vehicle, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, the connecting system including a connecting strap (40) having latches (42) at either end thereof and which are adapted to engage with latching bars (18) on the vehicle, the connecting strap passing through and being fixed in a rear strap path (41, Fig. 1) via rivets (48) and when the connecting strap being latched/locked to the vehicle seat, the connecting strap being sufficiently long that respective extending from each side of the strap path where its

permanently fixed, can extend out the opposite side of the front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position or extend out the opposite side of the rear strap path for use when the child car seat is in the forward facing position. Kain shows the front and rear paths being parallel aligned as they extend from one side to another.

3. Claims 1-8,16,18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mullen. shows a connecting system (100) comprising a child car seat (114) in a vehicle, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, the connecting system including a connecting strap (102) having latches (104, 106) at either end thereof and which are adapted to engage with latching bars (50) on the vehicle, the connecting strap passing through and being fixed in a rear strap path (Fig. 1, 10, 11) and when the connecting strap being latched/locked to the vehicle seat, the connecting strap being sufficiently long that respective ends extending from each side of the strap path where its permanently fixed, can extend out the opposite side of the front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position or extend out the opposite side of the rear strap path for use when the child car seat is in the forward facing position. Mullen shows the front and rear paths being parallel aligned as they extend from one side to another.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kain. Kain shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention. The method steps as claimed would have been obviously incorporated within the use of the invention, as taught by Kain.

6. Claims 9-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullen. Mullen shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention. The method steps as claimed would have been obviously incorporated within the use of the invention, as taught by Mullen.

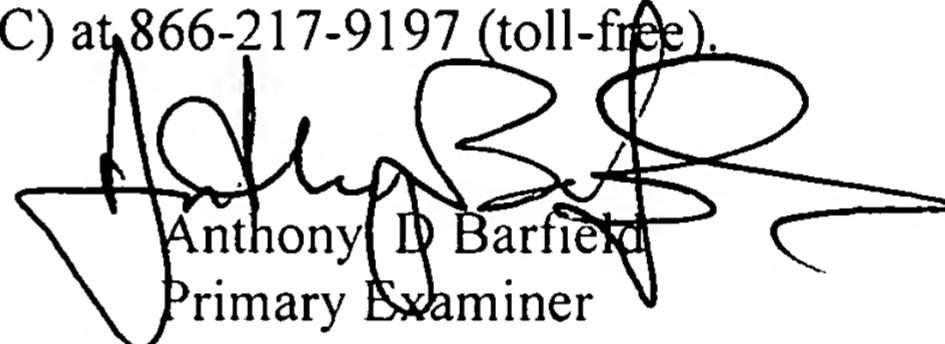
#### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 3/16/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In reference to applicant's argument that Kain fails to teach the use of a "*Kain '183 does not disclose ...the connecting strap passing through and being permanently fixed in one of the plurality of straps in the child car seat*", the examiner is of the opinion that Kain teaches the use of a connecting strap (40) passing through and being fixed in a strap path, when the straps are latched/locked to the vehicle seat. Kain shows the strap being "permanently" (fixed via the rivets and leash (20) which is part of the connecting strap), within the strap path as the path extends from side of the car seat to the other side of the seat. Regarding applicants argument that "*the strap is sufficiently long that the respective ends extend from each side...can also pass through and extend out the opposite sides of the front strap path*", again the examiner maintains that the strap of Kain is of sufficient size to allow the ends to extend through the front strap path even if its only a little.

Art Unit: 3636

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is 5703-308-215852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Anthony D. Barfield  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3636

adb  
June 25, 2006